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21 Mar 89

MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL RADIOACTIVITY MONITORING - INLAND WATERS

Reference:

A. Meeting JAMES (ScNucl)/FULLER(DRPS) 9 March 89

1. At Reference A DRPS were asked to comment on the feasibility and cost of carrying out environmental radioactivity surveys on the north-west coast of Scotland and/or the Outer Hebrides.

2. It is confirmed that the surveys are entirely feasible. DRPS already carry out a full programme of such surveys around submarine berths both in the UK and abroad.

3. A survey would comprise environmental dose rate measurements on the shoreline together with collection of shoreline sediment and biological (seaweed, shellfish etc) samples. Samples of locally caught sea-food would also be required. The samples would be analysed on return to DRPS.

4. The cost per survey is estimated at £2-3k depending upon the precise locations involved.

5. It would be essential to begin the programme early in order to obtain a reliable baseline. Quarterly or even more frequent surveys may be appropriate initially but it should be possible to extend the interval assuming consistent (background) results are obtained.

Dr D FULLER
Senior Health Physicist (General)
for Head of DRPS

Information:

AD/ScNucl

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